

Guidelines and Guardrails for Selecting School Improvement Interventions

Office of School Improvement and Turnaround Indiana Department of Education

March 2012

Guidelines and Guardrails...

- Overview
- Mass Insight's Framework for High- Quality,
 High-Poverty Schools
- Turnaround Principles
- Rigor Tiers
- Case Study



- •Indiana's current federal school accountability model is known as the Differentiated Accountability model ("DA model")
 - •Districts with Title I-served schools that fail to meet AYP for consecutive years are given one of four designations:
 - Comprehensive-intensive
 - Comprehensive-support
 - Comprehensive
 - Focus
 - •Based on the school's designation, districts are required to implement specific school improvement interventions



- •Indiana's **new** federal school accountability model was approved by USDoE as a part of the state's NCLB flexibility waiver
 - •Districts with Title I-served schools that are designated as **Priority or Focus** schools will be required to implement school improvement interventions
 - •However, districts and schools will no longer be required to implement specific school improvement interventions
 - •We believe this will provide districts and schools with the flexibility to select school improvement interventions based on student- and school-level data



- Schools will use 2011 state test data, along with other school level data sources, to guide intervention selection
- The process for intervention selection will start this summer as schools are identified as Focus and Priority
- IDOE will provide a specific application that will include detailed directions on how to chose an intervention and use the guardrails detailed in this Webex
- Schools will no longer have to complete NCLB School Improvement Plans



- •When selecting school improvement interventions, districts must be sure they meet specific guidelines and guardrails
- •These are designed to ensure selected school improvement interventions and their corresponding implementation plans align with evidence-based best practices
- •Selected school improvement interventions and strategies do not have to be brand new to the district or school

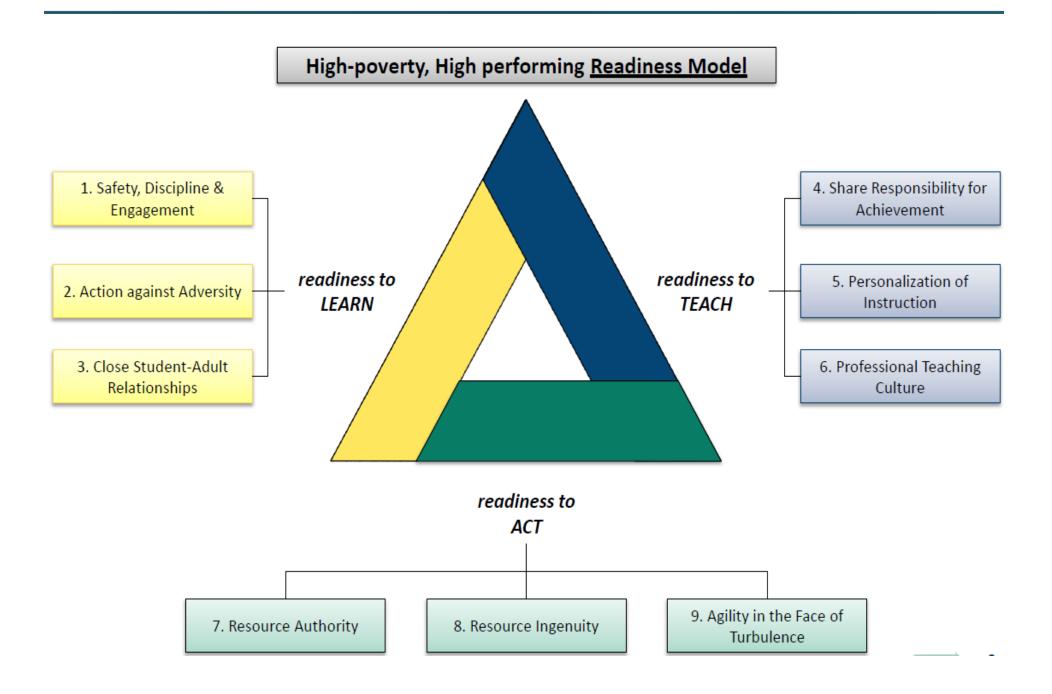


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How do high-performing, high-poverty schools do it?



Guidelines and Guardrails: Mass Insight's Framework for High-Quality, High-Poverty Schools ("HQHP")

- Year I Priority and Focus Schools must select at least 3 school improvement interventions or strategies
- •It is recommended that at least I strategy should align to each of the three domains described in the HQHP framework:
 - •Readiness to Learn
 - •Readiness to Teach
 - Readiness to Act
- •In Year I of Priority or Focus School status, it is important to take a multi-pronged approach to school improvement and to closely monitor each intervention's effectiveness Indiana Department of Education

Guidelines and Guardrails: Mass Insight's Framework for High-Quality, High-Poverty Schools ("HQHP")

- Priority and Focus Schools beyond Year I must select at least I school improvement intervention or strategy
- •The decrease in required interventions is designed to give districts and schools the flexibility to:
 - Prevent "initiative overload"
 - •Adapt their school improvement plan based on data collected when in Year 1 status
 - •"Go deeper" with a single, school-wide and systemic intervention



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Guidelines and Guardrails: Turnaround Principles

- •The USDoE created the "Turnaround Principles"
 - Provide strong leadership
 - •Ensure that teachers are effective and able to improve instruction
 - •Redesign the school day, week or year
 - •Strengthen the school's instructional program
 - •Use data to inform instruction
 - •Establish a school environment that improves safety and discipline
 - Engage families and community



Guidelines and Guardrails: Turnaround Principles

- •Priority Schools must ensure their school improvement interventions and strategies align to **all** turnaround principles
 - •Multiple, targeted or a single, systemic school improvement intervention(s) will easily align to all turnaround principles
- •Focus Schools must ensure their school improvement interventions and strategies align to **targeted** turnaround principles, based on demonstrated needs for improvement

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Guidelines and Guardrails: Rigor Tiers

- •Once school improvement interventions have been selected and aligned, the district and school must develop an implementation plan
- •To ensure approved interventions are implemented with fidelity, their implementation plan must describe how the interventions will be either or both of the following:
 - •Tier 2 Targeted
 Focused on improving one or more major characteristic(s) of the school
 - •Tier 3 Highly-Targeted Focused on providing services for a particular student subgroup



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- •ABC Middle School Year I Priority School
 - School Improvement Interventions and Strategies
 - •Create a 1:1 mentoring program for students with specific academic and/or non-academic challenges
 - •Hiring of a data analyst and coach
 - Principal has the authority to select all teachers and staff
 - •Weekly Professional Learning Community time built into school calendar



Alignment to Mass Insight's High-Quality, High-Poverty Schools Framework

Readiness to Learn

Readiness to Teach

Readiness to Act

Create a 1:1 mentoring program for students with specific academic and/ or non-academic challenges

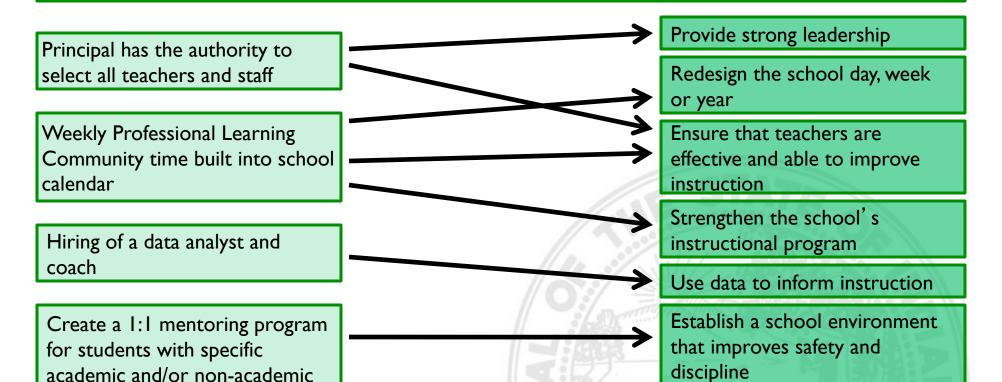
Hiring of a data analyst and coach

Principal has the authority to select all teachers and staff
Weekly Professional Learning Community time built into school calendar



challenges

Alignment to USDoE's Turnaround Principles





Engage families and community

Alignment to USDoE's Turnaround Principles

Principal has the authority to select all teachers and staff

Weekly Professional Learning
Community time built into school
calendar

Hiring of a data analyst and coach

Create a 1:1 mentoring program for students with specific academic and/or non-academic challenges

Rigor Tier 2: Teachers and staff will be selected based on demonstrated record of success in low-performing schools

Rigor Tier 2: Weekly PLC time will be dedicated to improving datadriven instruction as well as to creating remediation, monitoring and enrichment plans for all students in ELA and Math

Rigor Tier 2: The data analyst and coach will specifically focus on assisting all teachers to better understand and respond to their students ELA and Math skills and needs

Rigor Tier 3: The 1:1 mentoring program will focus on providing support to individual students, based on their targeted academic and non-academic needs

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- Use school 10% School Improvement set-aside to fund interventions for Priority and Focus schools
 - Use "other purchase services" as a place mark to hold funds if needed.
- School Improvement Grants (1003a) will be competitively awarded to Priority and Focus schools based on the following criteria:
 - Need (i.e., percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced price meals)
 - Merit (e.g., innovation, district capacity, alignment and leveraging of existing funds)



Funding

 School improvement interventions and grants will be described in a series of WebEx presentations, starting in mid-April



Trainings Available

- April 10
 - Intervention Selection WebEx: Root Cause Analysis,
 Data—Driven Intervention Selection
- April 24
 - Intervention Monitoring WebEx: Protocols and Documentation Requirements



Resources

Indiana's Approved Waiver: http://www.ed.gov/esea/flexibility

Mass Insight's Framework for High-Quality, High-Poverty Schools: http://www.massinsight.org/stg/

Turnaround Principles:

http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/index.html

A-F Accountability:

http://www.doe.in.gov/improvement/accountability/f-accountability

OSIT Website: http://www.doe.in.gov/improvement/turnaround



Resources

- Join the School Improvement Learning Connection Community
- FAQs are posted and updated weekly
- All WebEx's are recorded and posted in the Learning Connection Community
- All Power Points are in "files tab" of School Improvement Learning Connection Community

Contact Information

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Indiana Department of Education

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